

1 MINUTES

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3 The State Board of Elections held a Special Meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2015.
4 The meeting was held in the Omni Homestead, 1766 Homestead Drive, Monroe Room,
5 Hot Springs, Virginia. In attendance, representing the State Board of Elections (SBE) was
6 James Alcorn, Chairman; Clara Belle Wheeler, Vice Chair; Singleton McAllister,
7 Secretary. Also in attendance, representing the Department of Elections (ELECT) was
8 Edgardo Cortés, Commissioner and Elizabeth Howard, Deputy Commissioner. Kristina
9 Perry Stoney, Senior Assistant Attorney General participated via Skype. Chairman
10 Alcorn called the meeting to order at 10:30AM.

11 Chairman Alcorn stated that this special meeting of SBE was being conducted at
12 the request of the Prince William County Electoral Board and because SBE received
13 updated information on the Prince William County Republican Committee that was
14 introduced by William Card during the SBE Board Meeting on March 3, 2015. Chairman
15 Alcorn asked Commissioner Cortés to provide background information on the subject
16 matter.

17 Commissioner Cortés stated that Mr. Card, Chairman of the Prince William
18 County Republican Committee spoke to Board Members on March 3, 2015. Mr. Card
19 requested an extension to the deadline, as his office failed to submit the necessary
20 paperwork indicating the parties nominating process by the required date of February 24,
21 2015. On Wednesday, March 4, 2015, ELECT received a call from the party attorney to
22 discuss the interpretation of the code and the historical selection of the parties' choice of
23 selecting a primary nominating process. Commissioner Cortés stated that ELECT was in
24 consultation with the Attorney General's Office and sent SBE Board Members an email
25 which was relayed to the Prince William County Electoral Board with the details of how
26 ELECT would proceed. SBE has not called for a primary regarding this matter; however,
27 if the local electoral board believes they are legally obligated to hold a primary that
28 ELECT would not hinder the local electoral board from moving forward. The Prince
29 William County Electoral Board requested that ELECT hold a special meeting to discuss
30 what action either ELECT or SBE would initiate and to provide direction to the electoral
31 board members. Commissioner Cortés asked if there were any comments.

32 Tony Guiffre, Secretary of the Prince William County Electoral Board, was
33 recognized for comment. Mr. Guiffre stated that the swift action ELECT has taken, as
34 well as the interest that SBE has taken, is appreciated because he believes there is a
35 solution.

36 Seeing no further public comment at that time, Chairman Alcorn moved *that the*
37 *SBE Board close the meeting to discuss specific legal matters requiring the provision of*
38 *legal advice by legal counsel as authorized by § 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia.*
39 Vice Chair Wheeler seconded the motion and without public comment the Board
40 unanimously approved the motion. Chairman Alcorn directed Clara Belle Wheeler, Vice
41 Chair; Singleton McAllister, Secretary; Kristina Perry Stoney, Senior Assistant Attorney
42 General and SBE Counsel; Commissioner Cortés, ELECT Commissioner; and Elizabeth
43 Howard, ELECT Deputy Commissioner to remain with the Board during the closed
44 session. The Board went into Executive Session at 10:40AM.

45 At 11:10AM Chairman Alcorn *moved to reconvene in open session and a roll call*
46 *vote was taken as required by § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, unanimously*
47 *certifying that during the closed meeting (i) only public business matters lawfully*
48 *exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, and (ii) only such public*
49 *business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was*
50 *concerned were heard, were discussed or considered.* Vice Chair Wheeler seconded the
51 motion and the Board unanimously approved the motion. Commissioner Cortés
52 performed the roll call vote and all Board Members approved the motion.

53 Chairman Alcorn stated that after consultation with SBE Counsel, SBE Board
54 Members would not initiate a vote or take action regarding the matter presented in Prince
55 William County. Chairman Alcorn stated that it is the role of the Prince William County
56 Electoral Board to decide if they have the authority and responsibility to conduct a
57 primary for those offices for which the primaries are being challenged. Chairman Alcorn
58 recommended that the electoral board consult with their attorney and stated that as
59 provided in code, those individuals could contact SBE Counsel. Ms. Stoney stated that it
60 should be noted that the Office of the Attorney General only represents SBE and ELECT
61 in this matter and could not provide legal advice to the Prince William Electoral Board,
62 but would be willing to consult with the electoral board's counsel. Chairman Alcorn

asked ELECT to schedule a general business meeting in the near future to address this issue. Chairman Alcorn asked if there were public comments and there were none.

Vice Chair Wheeler moved *that the Board adjourn*. Secretary McAllister seconded the motion and without further comment the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25AM.

The Board shall reconvene on April 1, 2015 at 2:00PM in the Washington Building, 1100 Bank Street, Room B27, Richmond, Virginia.

Secretary

Chair

Vice Chairman